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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

February 5, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE BOST to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Avery M. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

IMPEACHMENT MOVEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, with a to-whom-it-may-concern message. To whom it may concern: Ethnic cleansing

in Gaza is not a joke, especially when it emanates from the President of the United States, the most powerful person in the world, when he has the ability to perfect what he says.

Ethnic cleansing in Gaza is no joke, and the Prime Minister of Israel should be ashamed, knowing the history of his people to stand there and allow such things to be said. Ethnic cleansing has been a crime against humanity.

I stand here today in the well to denounce what was said, to denounce what the President said, to denounce the complicity of the Prime Minister of Israel, and to remind people that Dr. King was right: Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Injustice in Gaza is a threat to justice in the United States of America.

I rise to announce that the movement to impeach the President has begun. I rise to announce that I will bring Articles of Impeachment against the President for dastardly deeds proposed and dastardly deeds done.

I also rise to say that the impeachment movement is going to be a grass-up movement, not a top-down. The people have got to move forward. The people have to demand it, and when the people demand it, it will be done.

I did it before. I laid the foundation for impeachment, and it was done. Nobody knows more about it than I, and I know that it is time for us to lay the foundation again.

On some issues, it is better to stand alone than not stand at all. On this issue, I stand alone, but I stand for justice.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

CONGRATULATING DAVID PRICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent, Mr. David Price of Fishersville, Virginia, who was named the grand champion of the 2024 Virginia Truck Driving Championship.

David has been a professional truck driver for 33 years. He has been employed with FedEx Freight for the last 18. He has logged 3.3 million miles without an accident, making him the perfect candidate to enter the competition.

The contest opened on day one with a written exam and concluded the following day with competitive scoring on a pre-trip inspection and driving course skills test.

David demonstrated his knowledge and expertise in all areas to take home the Virginia Straight Truck title. He also captured the best course score and best pre-trip inspection honors to qualify him for his fourth National Truck Driving Championship.

Truck drivers are the backbone of our economy, delivering essential goods across the United States, but beyond the loads they carry, they carry an enormous responsibility, ensuring the safety of everyone and the commitment to sharing the road. David's grand champion status is a testament to his discipline, focus, and care for his fellow drivers.

HALTING THE FENTANYL CRISIS AND PROTECTING AMERICAN LIVES

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, the communities throughout the Sixth District of Virginia and across this entire Nation turned into border communities under the last administration.

This was the direct result of the failed leadership of President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas, who allowed deadly fentanyl to pour through our open borders for 4 years.

In 2023, over 107,000 Americans tragically died from drug overdoses. Of those, 75,000 were due to synthetic opioids, primarily illicit fentanyl. Fentanyl has become the number one

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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cause of death for adults aged 18 to 49. Even in my home State of Virginia, drug cartels were caught smuggling rainbow-colored fentanyl, specifically intended to target our children. Enough is enough.

That is why this week the House will vote on the HALT Fentanyl Act to address this crisis head on. Introduced by my colleague, Representative GRIF-FITH, the HALT Fentanyl Act will increase penalties for fentanyl traffickers, support research into the devastating mental health effects of fentanyl, and equip law enforcement with the authority and resources needed to keep the deadly drug off our streets.

Unlike the previous administration, House Republicans are stepping up to protect the American people. We are committed to fighting back against the fentanyl crisis, securing our borders, and saving lives. We must pass this important legislation to protect innocent lives and ensure the safety of our families and our communities.

CONGRATULATING DALE MEYERHOEFFER

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend a resident of Verona, Virginia, who cares passionately about preserving the lands and cultures that epitomize our American heritage.

On December 11, 2024, in a ceremony in Washington, D.C., it was announced that Dale Meyerhoeffler received the National Park Service 2023 Director's Award for Excellence in Natural Resource Management.

Mr. Meyerhoeffler is a biological technician whose undaunted efforts to save Shenandoah National Park's remaining eastern hemlock trees preserved an ecologically important resource for the park.

After the death of 95 percent of the park's hemlocks from an invasive insect, Meyerhoeffler, with the help from volunteers and park staff, used insecticide treatment to protect more than 30,000 hemlocks.

To reduce the park's reliance on pesticide treatments, Meyerhoeffler worked with researchers from Virginia Tech to procure and release host-specific, predatory beetles and flies in hopes of controlling the invasive insect.

This effort culminated in major success for Shenandoah National Park and the Sixth District of Virginia. We thank him for his persistence and contribution to our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE RESTORATION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Restoration Community Development Corporation in Luray, Virginia, and its selfless founder, Pastor Audre King. Pastor King grew up in Page County and has made a difference in the community since he moved back 8 years ago.

Pastor King founded Living Legacy, a community nonprofit that serves as an umbrella organization, focused on underprivileged youth. Its most recent

initiative is the Restoration Community Development Corporation, which aims to restore houses and give unhouseed mothers and their children a place to live.

A house in the heart of Luray was rehabilitated in December and is now home to 4 moms and 11 children who are grateful to live together as a family. The moms attend church service and life skills classes and are offered recovery sessions as needed.

They also pay a portion of the upkeep and save for the future. Pastor King hopes to finish a second house for fathers by the end of February and eventually hopes to expand across the county.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Restoration Community Development Corporation and Pastor King for their exceptional work in the Sixth District of Virginia.

HONORING ARCHITECT FRIEDRICH ST. FLORIAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember architect Friedrich St. Florian.

He was a visionary architect whose profound design of the National World War II Memorial on our National Mall has left an indelible, enduring mark honoring our Nation's history along that historic Mall of democracy—our collective memory.

Friedrich's architecture does more than commemorate. It invites reflection, on that area of the Mall, on the sacrifices of the greatest and most unselfish generation this Nation has ever seen, ensuring that their valor, unity, and sacrifice are honored for all time.

Friedrich was born amidst the throes of conflict in Graz, Austria. Friedrich's early experiences of war profoundly shaped his values and vision. His architectural design of the World War II Memorial was not merely a professional task. It stands as his personal tribute to freedom and to democracy and its cost.

He was deeply informed by his own moment of liberation at the end of World War II. How fortunate as an American he could connect that experience to our own. The memorial represents the 20th century's most valued achievement: The victory of liberty over tyranny.

As an Austrian by birth and an American by choice, Friedrich brought grace, dignity, and artistry along with his deeply held belief in the cost of liberty.

The memorial and its design stands as a testament to his commitment to honor the sacrifices of those who fought to save liberty for our generation and those to follow.

As we reflect on his enormous legacy, let us visit the National World War II Memorial as nearly 100 million Americans have done already. Let us share

the stories of those who served and what they fought for and against, and ensure that their sacrifices continue to inspire future generations.

Friedrich St. Florian's work remains a symbol of our gratitude, a beacon of hope for peace where nearly, as I mentioned, visitors from near and far have come. As the designers intended, this memorial sits between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial and was designed as a plaza where people can come and reflect on the awe-some history of our great country.

I thank Friedrich and his family and all those who assisted him for his monumental gift from the 20th century to our Nation going forward.

He will be dearly missed, but through his outstanding work with every detail, even the type of stone that was used, he will never ever be forgotten.

ARIZONA FIREFIGHTERS ASSIST IN CALIFORNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bravery of and share my sincere appreciation to all the firefighters in my district and across Arizona who went above and beyond the call of duty to help our neighbors in southern California during the recent devastating fires.

In particular, I thank all of the firefighters from the Tucson Fire Department, the Northwest Fire Department, the Golder Ranch Fire District, and the Fry Fire District, who took time away from their families and communities to be deployed to California to help.

In this time of crisis, while others run away, our firefighters run toward danger, braving smoke and fire to protect life and property. Their selfless dedication, courage, and commitment to service embody the very best of our communities and reminds us of the unity that binds us all as Americans.

These brave men and women put themselves in harm's way, working tirelessly in grueling conditions to contain the flames and provide relief to those affected.

I thank the firefighters who answer the call. Their heroism does not go unnoticed. Their willingness to put themselves at risk for the safety of others is a testament to their extraordinary character.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents and a grateful Nation, I extend my deepest gratitude. We honor their service today and always.

CELEBRATING PINAL COUNTY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable milestone in my district's history: the 150th anniversary of Pinal County, which happens to be on February 1.

Since its establishment in 1875, Pinal County has grown from its rich roots in mining and agriculture into a thriving community shaped by the hard work, resilience, and spirit of its people.